

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended) A radio communication apparatus ~~which performs communication on the basis of system identification information assigned to a communication system having a plurality of communication apparatuses;~~ comprising:

requesting means for requesting ~~group communication in a group by forming from a first communication apparatus, an assignment of group identification information to manage a~~ [[the]] group [[of]] formed from a part of communication apparatuses in [[said]] a communication system;

~~assigning means for assigning group identification information to manage the group communication in response to the request~~ inquiring means for inquiring of a second communication apparatus whether the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group identification information assigned by the first communication apparatus in response to the request by said requesting means; and

communicating means for performing the group communication in the group with the second communication apparatus on the basis of the group identification information assigned by said assigning means, in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus in response to the inquiry by said inquiring means[[.]]

wherein said assigning means assigns the group identification information whenever the group is formed.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said communicating means performs multi-address calling in the group on the basis of the group identification information.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 14, ~~where said communication system comprises a communication control apparatus having further comprising~~ informing means for informing [[a]] the second communication apparatus; which has transmitted the request; of the group identification information, in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus to the inquiry by said inquiring means.

17. and 18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein ~~said assigning means releases~~ the assigned group identification information is released when the group communication is complete.

20. (canceled). The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said communicating means performs radio communication.

21. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim [[20]] 14, wherein ~~the radio communication is~~ the group identification information is a frequency hopping pattern used in performing frequency hopping communication.

22. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim [[21]] 14, wherein ~~said communication system comprises~~ the group identification information is assigned by a communication control apparatus in the communication system for assigning a hopping pattern to each group and;

~~said communicating means performs communication on the basis of the hopping pattern assigned by said communication control apparatus.~~

23. - 26. (canceled).

24. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein an information transmission right in the group communication is assigned to each communication apparatus at each frequency.

25. (original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said communicating means performs communication by using a communication frame for communicating information, and information transmission right in the group communication is assigned to each communication apparatus in accordance with a time during which one communication frame is communicated.

26. (original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the group communication is performed on the basis of accounting information.

27. (currently amended) A method of ~~controlling a communication system~~ which has a plurality of communication apparatuses and performs performing radio communication ~~on the basis of system identification information assigned to said~~ communication system, by a radio communication apparatus, comprising the steps of:

requesting ~~from a first communication apparatus, group communication in a~~ group by forming identification information to manage a ~~[[the]] group [[of]]~~ formed from a part of communication apparatuses in ~~[[said]]~~ a communication system;

assigning ~~group identification information to manage the group~~ communication in response to the request inquiring of a second communication apparatus whether the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group identification information assigned by the first communication apparatus in response to the request in said requesting step; and

performing the group communication in the group ~~with the second~~ communication apparatus on the basis of the group identification information, in accordance with response from the second communication apparatus in response to the inquiry in said inquiring step ~~assigned in the assignment step;~~

wherein the assignment step comprises assigning the group identification information whenever the group is formed.

28. - 70. (canceled).

71. (new) The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising storing means for storing identification information identifying the second communication apparatus which has transmitted the response in response to the inquiry by said inquiring means.

72. (new) A radio communication apparatus comprising:

- a requesting unit adapted to request from a first communication apparatus, an assignment of group identification information to manage a group formed from a part of communication apparatuses in a communication system;
- an inquiring unit adapted to inquire of a second communication apparatus whether the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group identification information assigned by the first communication apparatus in response to the request by said requesting unit; and
- an informing unit adapted to inform the second communication apparatus of the group identification information, in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus in response to the inquiry by said inquiring unit.

73. (new) The apparatus according to claim 72, further comprising a storing unit adapted to store identification information identifying the second communication apparatus which has transmitted the response in response to the inquiry by said inquiring unit.

74. (new) The apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the assigned group identification information is released when the group communication is complete.

75. (new) A method of performing radio communication by a radio communication apparatus, comprising the steps of:

requesting from a first communication apparatus, an assignment of group identification information to manage a group formed from a part of communication apparatuses in a communication system;

inquiring of a second communication apparatus whether the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group identification information assigned by the first communication apparatus in response to the request in said requesting step; and

informing the second communication apparatus of the group identification information, in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus in response to the inquiry in said inquiring step.

76. (new) A computer-executable program, stored in a computer-readable medium, in executable form, for executing a method of performing radio communication by a radio communication apparatus, comprising the steps of:

requesting from a first communication apparatus, an assignment of group identification information to manage a group formed from a part of communication apparatuses in a communication system;

inquiring of a second communication apparatus whether the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group identification information assigned by the first communication apparatus in response to the request in said requesting step; and

informing the second communication apparatus of the group identification information, in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus in response to the inquiry in said inquiring step.

77. (new) A computer-executable program, stored in a computer-readable medium, in executable form, for executing a method of performing radio communication by a radio communication apparatus, comprising the steps of:

requesting from a first communication apparatus, an assignment of group identification information to manage a group formed from a part of communication apparatuses in a communication system;

inquiring of a second communication apparatus whether the second communication apparatus participates in group communication using the group identification information assigned by the first communication apparatus in response to the request in said requesting step; and

performing the group communication in the group with the second communication apparatus on the basis of the group identification information in accordance with a response from the second communication apparatus in response to the inquiry in said inquiring step.